

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 IO-10

CU-04 DHA-02 /085 W

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R 181609Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4280

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY DURBAN

AMEMBASSY JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 6109

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, IV, SF

SUBJECT: IVORY COAST MINISTER OF INFORMATION'S VISIT TO SOUTH
AFRICA

REF: A) PRETORIA 2639 (NOTAL); B) ABIDJAN 6026 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN PRESS INTERVIEW GIVEN JULY 17 BY IVORY COAST
MINISTER OF INFORMATION DONA FOLOGO ON SUBJECT OF REPORTED
VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA, FOLOGO INDICATED WILLINGNESS IN PRINCIPLE
TO MAKE TRIP BUT SAID HE COULD NOT YET SET A DATE AND ADDED
THAT IN ANY EVENT HE WOULD NOT CHOOSE A PERIOD COINCIDING WITH
OAU MEETING. IT APPEARS THEREFORE THAT FOLOGO VISIT AT
BEGINNING OF AUGUST AS INDICATED BY SAG PRETORIA (REFTEL A) IS
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NOW VERY UNLIKELY. FOLOGO ALSO COMMENTED ON REPORTS OF

POSSIBLE VISIT BY GOIC PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY TO SOUTH AFRICA NEXT YEAR. END SUMMARY

1. IVORY COAST MINISTER OF INFORMATION LAURENT DONA FOLOGO GAVE INTERVIEW JULY 17 TO AGENCE IVOIRIENNE DE PRESSE (OFFICIAL GOIC PRESS AGENCY) CONCERNING SUBJECT OF REPORTED VISIT BY FOLOGO TO SOUTH AFRICA AT BEGINNING OF AUGUST AT INVITATION OF SAG INFORMATION MINISTER CONNIE MULDER (REF A). FOLOGO BEGAN BY SAYING HE HAD READ INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS OF THE VISIT WHICH EVEN GAVE THE COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION WHICH WAS TO ACCOMPANY HIM. FOLOGO SAID THAT HE WAS IN PRINCIPLE DISPOSED TO MAKE THE TRIP FOR SEVERAL REASONS:

A. AS A PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST HE WAS PREPARED TO GO ANYWHERE TO SEE THINGS FIRSTHAND IN THE EXERCISE OF HIS PROFESSION;

B. AS AN AFRICAN HE WAS NATURALLY INTERESTED IN VISITING OTHER AFRICAN STATES INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA;

C. AS AN IVORIAN OFFICIAL CONVINCED OF THE POLICY OF DIALOGUE ADVOCATED BY GOIC PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY HE WAS PREPARED TO GO TO SOUTH AFRICA TO SEARCH FOR PEACE. FOLOGO SAID HE WANTED TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE REALITY OF APARTHEID (WHICH IVORY COAST CONDEMNS) AS WELL AS THE REPORTED "SLOW BUT REAL" STEPS WHICH SOUTH AFRICA WAS TAKING.

2. FOLOGO SAID IT IS IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS TIME TO SAY WHEN THE VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE OR WHAT WOULD BE THE COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION "IF THERE WILL BE A DELEGATION." ALTHOUGH THE GOIC HAS NOT YET SET A DATE FOR THE VISIT, FOLOGO SAID HE WOULD NOT CHOOSE A PERIOD WHEN THE OAU WAS MEETING SINCE AS MINISTER OF INFORMATION HIS ATTENTION WOULD BE TURNED TOWARD KAMPALA DURING THAT TIME.

3. FOLOGO ALSO COMMENTED ON PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS OF A POSSIBLE VISIT BY GOIC PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY TO SOUTH AFRICA NEXT YEAR BY REFERRING TO A RECENTLY PUBLISHED INTERVIEW IN WHICH HOUPHOUET HAD MADE A DEFENSE OF HIS UNCLASSIFIED

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DIALOGUE POLICY. HOUPHOUET SAID THAT AS A BLACK MAN HE NATURALLY ABHORRED THE RACIAL POLICIES OF SOUTH AFRICA. BUT IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE, ACCORDING TO HOUPHOUET, THERE ARE ONLY TWO ALTERNATIVES, DIALOGUE OR WAR. IVORY COAST PREFERRED TO TRY THE WAY OF REACHING PEACE THROUGH DIALOGUE AND FOR THIS REASON, SAID HOUPHOUET, "I RECEIVE VORSTER WHEN HE ASKS TO MEET ME; I RECEIVE THE MEN HE WOULD LIKE TO SEND TO ME TO ASK ADVICE. I GIVE THEM ADVICE AND I BELIEVE

THEY TAKE THIS ADVICE INTO ACCOUNT." HOUPHOUET SAID HE SAW NO INCOMPATIBILITY WITH HIS SEARCHING FOR PEACE THROUGH DIALOGUE WHILE OTHER AFRICANS (WHOM HE DOES NOT ATTEMPT TO DISSUADE) BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO RESORT TO WAR.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE MINISTER'S TRIP IS NOW HIGHLY UNLIKELY IN THE TIME FRAME ANNOUNCED BY THE SAG IN PRETORIA BECAUSE OF THE CONCURRENT OAU MEETING IN KAMPALA, THE VISIT WILL PROBABLY BE RESCHEDULED FOR A LATER DATE IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE GOIC AND HOUPHOUET BOIGNY PERSONALLY ATTACH TO THE SEARCH FOR PEACE THROUGH DIALOGUE. AT THE SAME TIME, ALTHOUGH THE HOUPHOUET INTERVIEW CITED ABOVE (PARA 3) DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EVENTUAL VISIT BY HOUPHOUET HIMSELF TO SOUTH AFRICA, THE GOIC PRESIDENT HAS SAID ELSEWHERE RECENTLY (SEE ABIDJAN A-30) THAT HE DOES NOT SEE HIMSELF GOING TO PRETORIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE EVEN THOUGH VISITS BY MINISTERS AND OTHER OFFICIALS MIGHT TAKE PLACE.
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